



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 94848 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848
Phone: (402) 471-2244 • gov.heineman@gov.ne.gov

Dear Fellow Nebraskans:

It is my pleasure to invite you to be part of the 2006 Governor's Agriculture Conference being held March 8 and 9 at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, Nebraska. For the past several years, this conference has been an important event for our agricultural community, providing an opportunity to address current industry trends and get a glimpse of what may come in the months and years ahead.

The theme of this year's conference is "Nebraska Agriculture: Charting the Course." The conference will begin on Wednesday, March 8 at 6:00 p.m., with the "Celebrate Nebraska Agriculture" Reception. In addition to featuring a wide variety of Nebraska food products, the evening will feature comedic speaker Damian Mason. Registration for the evening's activities will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Loper Hall.

Conference activities will resume Thursday, March 9, with a continental breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m., with the opening session scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. We have an impressive line-up of speakers, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development, Tom Dorr, who will be the featured speaker. Other key visiting speakers include national agriculture policy analyst Jim Wiesemeyer with Informa Economics; crop insurance specialist Stephen Frerichs with Rain and Hail, LLC; chief executive officer of the National Association of Conservation Districts, Krysta Harden; renewable energy expert, Dr. Roger Conway with the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and founder of the nation's first rural television network, RFD-TV President Patrick Gottsch. Conference activities are scheduled to conclude by 3:00 p.m.

I encourage you to consider attending this important event. Your participation in this year's conference can be confirmed by returning the enclosed card with your registration fee by Monday, February 27. Please contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at (402) 471-6856 or toll free at 800-831-0550 if you have any questions. Lodging is available by calling the Holiday Inn at (308) 237-5976 or toll free at 800-248-4460; be sure to ask for the Governor's Agriculture Conference rate of \$65.

As Governor of one of the nation's leading agriculture states, I look forward to hosting this annual event. Agriculture continues to be the backbone of our state, and it's important our producers are equipped with the knowledge and skills to tackle new challenges. This conference will provide a forum to discuss these challenges and explore opportunities to help ensure agriculture remains a vibrant industry in our state.

I hope to see you in Kearney!

Sincerely,

Dave Heineman
Governor

Enclosure